

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /093 W

----- 030608

R 180730Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3678

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CANBERRA 4610

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJECT: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON JOINT SITTING OF PARLIAMENT

REF: CANBERRA 4564

1. FURTHER STEPS WERE TAKEN TOWARDS JOINT SITTING OF BOTH HOUSES OF AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT JULY 17 WITH REJECTION BY THE SENATE (ON TIED VOTES OF 29-29) OF TWO ADDITIONAL ELECTIONS BILLS THAT WERE AMONG THE SIX BILLS ON WHICH DOUBLE DISSOLUTION WAS GRANTED APRIL 11. SENATE HAS THUS REJECTED ONCE AGAIN THREE OF THE SIX BILLS, WITH EVERY PROSPECT THAT REMAINING THREE BILLS WILL BE REJECTED IN NEXT FEW DAYS.

2. LABOR GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO HAVE DRAWN BACK FROM ATTEMPT SIMPLY TO PROMULGATE RULES FOR JOINT SITTING (REFTEL), AND A PROCESS OF NEGOTIATION OF THE RULES APPEARS UNDER WAY. HOWEVER, OPPOSITION LEADER SNEDDEN TOLD AMBASSADOR JULY 18 THAT LABOR GOVERNMENT HAD NOT FORMALLY APPROACHED HIM ON JOINT SITTING, THOUGH HE BELIEVED THAT GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN ADVISED BY PUBLIC SERVICE LAWYERS TO MOVE CAREFULLY LEST BILLS

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RUN THROUGH JOINT SITTING WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE OPEN

TO SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE IN THE COURTS.

3. SECOND SENTENCE OF PARA 4 OF REFTL WAS INCOMPLETE
AS TRANSMITTED. SENTENCE SHOULD HAVE READ, "RATHER
SURPRISING THAT GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET APPROACHED
OPPOSITION ON JOINT SITTING, SINCE GOVERNMENT HAS VERY
SLIGHT MAJORITY IN JOINT SITTING (66 LABOR MEMBERS OF
HOUSE PLUS 29 SENATORS, FOR TOTAL OF 95, PLUS POSSIBLY
ONE MORE IF SENATOR HALL CONTINUES TO VOER WITH
LABOR)."
GREEN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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